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Examiners' Report

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Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (1CN0)

Paper 3F: Reading and understanding in Chinese

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Introduction

In Paper 3F: Reading and understanding in Chinese (Foundation Tier), candidates are assessed on their understanding of written Chinese across a range of different types of texts.

Candidates need to:

- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in texts
- deduce meaning from a variety of written texts
- recognise the relationship between past, present and future events
- understand texts, organise and present relevant details, and where appropriate, draw inferences in context and recognise implicit meaning
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in more extended written text, including authentic sources, adapted and abridged as appropriate, by being able to extract information and answer questions.

This paper has a total of 50 marks and consists of 10 questions. This paper comprises two sections. Candidates must answer all questions from each of the two sections. Section A has nine questions set in English. Question types comprise both multiple-choice and short-answer open response questions. The instructions to candidates are in English. Section B contains one translation passage from Chinese into English. The instructions to candidates are also in English.

The assessment is available in traditional and simplified characters. All questions and texts are printed twice, once with texts using traditional/full characters and once with texts in simplified characters. Candidates select the most appropriate version, but not both.

Four of the questions are common to both Foundation and Higher tiers.

The use of dictionaries is not permitted.

The total assessment time is 50 minutes in length.

Overall performance

The candidates responded well to most of the questions in Section A and Section B. Many candidates showed good abilities in identifying the overall message, key points, details and opinions in texts, and was able to deduce meaning and recognise and respond to key information and important ideas in more extended written texts.

Question 1

This question addressed the theme of Local area, holiday and travel and the topic of Holidays (Experiences). Candidates were asked to read some holiday

experiences and then complete a gap-fill in English, choosing which person from a choice of four, carried out which activity.

Question 1(a)

This part of the question required candidates to identify the phrase “一个星期/一個星期”. Most candidates were successful with this.

Question 1(b)

This part of the question required candidates to identify the phrase “看了一个演出/看了一個演出”. Many candidates were successful with this, although some candidates did not recognise this phrase.

Question 1(c)

This part of the question required candidates to recognise the word “法国/法國”. Many candidates were successful with this, although some candidates did not recognise the characters for France.

Question 1(d)

This part of the question required candidates to identify the phrase “参观了.....长城/參觀了.....長城”. Many candidates were successful with this, although some candidates did not recognise this phrase.

Question 1(e)

This part of the question required candidates to identify the phrase “坐旅游车/坐旅遊車”. Many candidates were successful with this, although some candidates did not recognise the characters.

Question 1(f)

This part of the question required candidates to recognise the word “台湾/台灣”. Many candidates were successful with this, although some candidates did not recognise the characters.

Question 2

This question addressed the theme of Identity and culture and the topic of Cultural life (Film and television). Candidates had to read some TV programmes and then complete a gap-fill in English, choosing six words (one of which is an example) from a box containing twelve words.

Question 2(a)

This part of the question required candidates to recognise the phrase “国际新闻/國際新聞”. Some candidates mistook the single lexical item ‘新闻/新聞’ as ‘competitions’ .

Question 2(b)

This part of the question required candidates to recognise the single lexical item “动物园/動物園”. Some candidates did not recognise it and incorrectly chose ‘in the wild’ .

Question 2(c)

This part of the question required candidates to identify the phrase “星期六晚上” and to recognise the single lexical item “旅游/旅遊”. Most candidates were successful in doing so.

Question 2(d)

This part of the question required candidates to identify the word “食物” as well as to recognise the single lexical item “星期日”. Most candidates were successful in doing so.

Question 2(e)

This part of the question required candidates to recognise the single lexical item “传统/傳統”. Many candidates incorrectly chose ‘vegetarian’.

Question 3

This question addressed the theme of International and global dimension and the topic of Environmental issues (being ‘green’). Candidates had to read an extract from a website about saving natural resources and then answer questions in English about the text.

Question 3(a)(i) This part of the question required candidates to identify “天天洗衣服” or “每个星期都洗车/每個星期都洗車”. Most candidates succeeded in identifying one of the phrases, although a small number either left the space blank or wrote a less specific or wrong answer.

Question 3(a)(ii) This part of the question required candidates to identify “在家” and “节约用水/節約用水”. Many candidates succeeded in identifying the phrases, although a small number either left the space blank or wrote a wrong answer.

Question 3(a)(iii) This part of the question required candidates to identify the single lexical item “动物/動物”. Most candidates succeeded in identifying the lexical item, although a small number either left the space blank or wrote a wrong answer.

Question 3(b)(i) This part of the question required candidates to identify “健康的生活”. Most candidates succeeded in identifying the phrase, although a small number either left the space blank or wrote a wrong answer.

Question 3(b)(ii) This part of the question required candidates to identify “保护/保護” and recognise “河水” or “湖水” or “海水”. Most candidates succeeded in identifying both lexical items, although a small number either left the space blank or wrote a wrong answer.

Question 5

This crossover question addressed the theme of Future aspirations, study and work and the topic of Work (jobs) and also appeared in the Higher Tier paper. In questions of this nature, candidates are required to understand sections of text which may contain distractors and to identify the main message as well as key points, details and opinions.

5(a) asked candidates to specify the length of training (两个星期/兩個星期) before taking up a post; 5(b) asked candidates to give one correct reason (比售货员的工作好/比售貨員的工作好 or 可以赚更多的钱/可以賺更多的錢) for applying for the post; and 5(c) asked candidates to recognise John’s job plan for the future (打算做记者/打算做記者, 采访演员/採訪演員). While most candidates answered all three questions correctly, some gave a less specific answer for 5(b) and/or did not recognise the single lexical item 记者/記者 or did not correctly identify the phrase 采访演员/採訪演員.

Question 7

This question was set in the theme of International and global dimension and addressed the topic of Bringing the world together (Campaigns and good causes). Candidates had to read an email about a charitable event and then complete a gap-fill in English, choosing six words (one of which is an example) from a box containing twelve words.

The candidates were required to identify a series of lexical items, including 城市广场/城市廣場, 国画展览/國畫展覽, 准备电视节目/準備電視節目, 回收 and 煤气/煤氣. While most candidates were successful in doing so, a small number of candidates were unable to recognise 国画展览/國畫展覽 and 煤气/煤氣.

Question 8

This literary text was a crossover question set in the Theme of Future aspirations, study and work and the topic of Ambitions, and it also appeared in the Higher Tier paper. In this question, candidates had to recognise and respond to key information and ideas in a more extended authentic text, deducing meaning.

The success rate for 8(a), 8(b) and 8(d) were high. However, 8(c) presented some difficulty to many candidates. Some candidates wrote 'learn to speak better Chinese' or 'to improve his Chinese' while the text read "如果想学好语言，有语言环境很重要/如果想學好語言，有語言環境很重要". Candidates are reminded to base their answers solely on the text given.

Question 9

This crossover question addressed the theme of School and the topic of School activities (School trips), and it also appeared in the Higher Tier paper. Candidates had to read some information about four school trips and then had to complete gap fill sentences, deciding which trip each statement applied to.

Candidates were required to identify locations, times and school subjects in order to fill in the gaps correctly. Most candidates were successful in doing so.

Question 10

This translation question addressed the theme of Local area, holiday and travel. The passage contained sentences which were all set within the same theme, which included a range of tenses, structures and vocabulary assessed at Foundation Tier. All the vocabulary in the translation could be found in the vocabulary list. Candidates are expected to demonstrate an ability to transfer meaning accurately into English. Many candidates achieved four or more of the seven marks available for this question.

Summary

Most entrants achieved some success, although some performed significantly better than others. Based on the performance in this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Make sure that you know the words from the vocabulary list (Foundation) well, as most of the questions are set based on the vocabulary list included in the specification.
- Some questions require you to process the information and draw inferences, hence it is important to understand each paragraph or the entire text as a whole.
- Read the questions carefully and address the questions asked directly. The responses provided should be based solely on the given text. Meanwhile, you need to ensure that what you write clearly expresses what you intend to say. Ambiguous responses are not accepted. While you can write in full sentences, it is not recommended that you do so,

as such full sentences may contain incorrect details which negate correct answers.

- You should give only one response for a one-mark question, two responses for a two-mark question and so on. You should not use slashes / or brackets ().

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